

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8-10 without prejudice and add new claim 19 as follows:

1. (Previously presented) An apparatus for downloading an initialization file for a cable modem comprising:

a tuner unit adapted to receive, tune and output a plurality of downstream signals received from a cable modem termination system and to receive, tune and output a plurality of upstream signals to the cable modem termination system;

a downstream unit adapted to demodulate the downstream signals from the tuner unit and separate general data from a media access control (MAC) management message;

a message processor adapted to detect a configuration file and manufacturing automation protocol (MAP) information according to the MAC management message input from the downstream unit;

a non-volatile memory adapted to store the configuration file detected by the message processor;

a CPU adapted to control the message processor; and

an upstream unit adapted to generate and modulate the upstream signal according to the MAP information detected by the message processor, wherein the message processor stores the detected configuration file in the non-volatile memory only when the detected configuration file is a more recent version than a configuration file previously stored in the non-volatile memory.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the general data of the downstream unit is transmitted to a display unit that can be viewed by a user through an MPEG 2 transport stream interface, and the MAC management message is transmitted to the message processor.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the CPU compares a name of the configuration file detected by the message processor to a name of the configuration file previously stored in the non-volatile memory and selects the configuration file of a later version.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message processor parses the format of information related to the detected configuration file into a configuration file name part and a configuration file version part with a delimiter part therebetween.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the format of the information related to the detected configuration file comprises a file name part indicating a configuration file name, a file version part indicating a configuration file version, and a delimiter part differentiating the file name part and the file version part.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory stores the configuration file for initializing the cable modem.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for downloading an initialization file for a cable modem, the method comprising:

registering information related to a detected configuration file in a DHCP server;  
receiving the information related to the detected configuration file registered in the DHCP server;

comparing the received configuration file information with information related to a previously stored configuration file;

downloading the detected configuration file only if one of a name of the detected configuration file is different from a name of the previously stored configuration file and a version of the detected configuration file is more recent than a version of the previously stored configuration file;

updating a memory with the downloaded configuration file; and

registering a cable modem by using the downloaded configuration file.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the information related to the detected configuration file comprises:

parsing the configuration file information into a file name part and a file version part.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein comparing the received configuration file information with the previously stored configuration file information comprises:

comparing the file name of the detected configuration file to the name of the stored configuration file;

downloading the configuration file if the name of the detected configuration file and the name of the stored configuration file are different; and

comparing the version of the detected configuration file to the version of the stored configuration file if the name of the detected configuration file is identical to the name of the stored configuration file and downloading the detected configuration file if the version of the detected configuration file is more recent than the version of the stored configuration file version.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

performing a registration process of the cable modem by using the stored configuration file if the version of the detected configuration file is one of older than and the same as the version of the stored configuration file.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the format of the information related to the detected configuration file and the stored configuration file comprise:

- a file name part indicating a configuration file name;
- a file version part indicating a configuration file version; and
- a delimiter part between the file name part and the file version part.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the stored configuration files is downloaded when initializing the cable modem.

17. (Previously presented) A method for downloading an initialization file for a cable modem, the method comprising:

constructing first configuration file information with a file name part, a file version part and a delimiter part, the delimiter part having a finite size such that the file name part and file version part border the delimiter part, and registering the configuration file information in a DHCP server, the first configuration file information corresponding to a detected configuration file;

receiving the first configuration file information registered in the DHCP server;

parsing the first configuration file information into a file name part and a file version part;

reading second configuration file information corresponding to a previously downloaded configuration file;

comparing the file name part of the first configuration file information to a file name part of the second configuration file information;

downloading the detected configuration file if the file name part of the first configuration file information and the file name part of the second configuration file information are different and comparing the file version part of the first configuration file information to a file version part of the second configuration file information only if the file name part of the first configuration file information is identical to the file name part of the second configuration file information; and

downloading the detected configuration file if the file version part of the first configuration file information is more recent than the file version part of the second configuration file information and reading the previously downloaded configuration file if the file version part of the first configuration file information is one of older than and the same as the file version part of the second configuration file information; and

performing a registration process using one of the detected configuration file and the previously downloaded configuration file according to the comparison result.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein if the detected configuration file is an initialization file that is first input to the cable modem, the first configuration file is stored in the memory and the registration process is performed using the first configuration file information.

19. (New) A method for downloading an initialization file for a modem, the method comprising:

registering information related to a detected configuration file in a DHCP server;

receiving the information related to the detected configuration file registered in the DHCP server;

comparing the received configuration file information with information related to a previously stored configuration file;

downloading the detected configuration file only if one of a name of the detected configuration file is different from a name of the previously stored configuration file and a version of the detected configuration file is more recent than a version of the previously stored configuration file;

updating a memory with the downloaded configuration file; and

registering a modem by using the downloaded configuration file.